

Mr. FRIST. I thank the Senator.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding the Chair will announce morning business until noon today; is that right?

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SUNUNU). The Senator is correct.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business, not to extend beyond the hour of 12 noon, with the time equally divided, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. Under the order, that gives us time until noon. I have two Senators on this side who wish to speak for up to 30 minutes each. I ask unanimous consent that Senator HOLLINGS, who is now in the Chamber, be recognized for 30 minutes and, of course, if there is a Republican who comes, someone from the majority in between that, that will be fine.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, will the Senator yield for one minute?

Mr. REID. Of course.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.J. RES. 2 AND H.R. 16

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I understand H.J. Res. 2 is at the desk and is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The leader is correct. The clerk will read the joint resolution for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 2) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I understand H.R. 16 is at the desk and is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The leader is correct. The clerk will read the bill for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 16) to authorize salary adjustments for Justices and judges of the United States for fiscal year 2003.

Mr. STEVENS. Parliamentary inquiry: Is the process concluded?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any objection to proceeding thereon?

Mr. STEVENS. I object to proceeding on either measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard from the Senator from Alaska. The measures will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator HOLLINGS

be recognized for 30 minutes. Following his speech, if someone on the Republican side or others wish to use up to 30 minutes, they can go, and following that, Senator CORZINE would be recognized for up to 30 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from South Carolina.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I would like to get the attention of the distinguished majority leader. Pending that, what brings this Senator to the floor is the headlines of the morning paper: "Deficit Predictions Soar with Bush Stimulus Plan."

The economists from Standard & Poor's is quoted as saying:

I don't think it's a near-term concern.

Then, of course, as the story follows on page 6, the headline is to the effect: "Economic Plan Could Lead to a Record Deficit."

I wanted the distinguished majority leader to send a message to Karl Rove. I cannot get the Washington Post to listen. I have been in here regularly for a good 10 years saying we are running record deficits. Now they have the chief economists saying this could lead to a record deficit.

Let the record show on September 30, last year, at the end of fiscal year 2002, the CBO figure was \$428 billion, a record deficit. Let's not come here in January and start talking about making records when we already have made a record. Everybody look up on their Internet, www.publicdebt.treas.gov, and you will see the public debt to the penny is already up some \$155 to \$159 or \$160 billion. So we are already, in this year, \$30 billion to \$40 billion in the red ahead of last year.

Of course, with the so-called tax cut of revenues, the cut of revenues under the Bush plan, we are bound to have an over \$500 billion deficit. That is why I wanted to get the distinguished majority leader's attention because history is repeating itself.

I remember 10 years ago President Bush I, as a result of Desert Storm, the gulf war success, was at all-time popularity. Then they looked economically with these headlines to a record deficit, and they had a \$402 to \$403 billion deficit. And the Governor of Arkansas beat him. That is exactly where we are headed this morning.

I don't know why it is that you cannot get the truth out of these figures. I know what the economists are thinking. You get the money in and spend it and hold what they call the on-budget deficit and off-budget and unified and public debt and government debt. That is all tommyrot. There is not a Governor in America with deficits asking to cut the revenues. Ask Governor Bush in Texas if he would recommend this out of the Governor's office in Austin, they would have run him out of the State.

Come to Washington and nobody listens. If he can carry a message, I think Karl Rove would listen because he is trying to reelect the President. "Economic Plan Could Lead to Record Deficit," and he will be electing John Kerry. Maybe I can get their attention telling them that. Here it comes, 2 years ahead of time, the economic plan could lead to record deficit.

It is almost like working in the CIA here. It is top secret when you talk the truth. I think the axiom of Mark Twain is correct. He said: The truth is such a precious thing it should be used very sparingly. Of course, that is the media with respect to the truth on the amount of money we take in, on the amount of money we spend.

Let's go exactly back to 1992. At that particular time, Governor Clinton had just been nominated and invited Alan Greenspan, among others, down to Little Rock. Greenspan told the Presidential nominee: Look, you are coming up to Washington. You are not only going to have to cut spending, you are going to have to increase taxes. And Governor Clinton said: Are you serious? He said: That is exactly what the country needs. That is what you are going to do to get long-term investment. You are not going to get long-term investment with these deficits upon deficits, the debt going up, the interest costs going up, which I call interest taxes.

When the President says he is cutting taxes, he is actually increasing taxes. They cannot be avoided. They have to be paid. Interest costs run at the rate of \$1 billion a day. This morning at 8 o'clock, the first thing the Government did is add another \$1 billion and add it to the debt. The distinguished Presiding Officer will pick up my bill. Senator Thurmond and I have gotten by. We are home free economically. But the next generation coming along will have to pick up our bill.

In any event, President Clinton came to town. We submitted the plan, and we cut billions of spending, we raised taxes, and for the next eight years had the best economy we have ever had. The Senator from Tennessee, the distinguished majority leader, if I could get his attention. I ask my distinguished friend from Tennessee, I know you will see Karl Rove, and I want him to see he is leading his distinguished President into the same trap that Bush and I got led into. When you see these stories, Senator, to the effect that the economic plan could lead to record deficits, and they are quoting the chief economists of Standard & Poors, that is exactly where we were in 1992.

President Bushsea dpwm I was the most popular President after that Desert Storm you could possibly find. And within a year's time, the economy was at a \$400 billion deficit. The young Governor from Arkansas beat him, and this is what we have right now when you see the economic world saying there will not be any investment, when they are saying they will have record deficits.